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**IDAHO NATIVE WINS 2005 ARBOR DAY
NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST SPONSORED BY TOYOTA**

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (April 15, 2005) — The winning poster in the 2005 Arbor Day National Poster Contest not only exhibited Christy Reid's artistic skills, but also her writing skills, including a poem encouraging the planting of trees.

Christy's fondness for trees and creative abilities are just a couple of the reasons her poster was selected as the national winner in the 2005 Arbor Day National Poster Contest, presented by The National Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota Motor North America, Inc. More than 75,000 fifth-grade classrooms around the nation participated in the poster contest this year. The theme was "Trees are terrific ... and Energy Wise!"

Christy, a fifth-grader from Hayden Lake, Idaho, included a seven-line poem in her poster, which features a scene of rolling hills, animals, and an oversized tree that brings the entire image to life. The winning poster will be unveiled at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., on National Arbor Day, April 29. The first-place poster — along with winning posters from other state contests — will be displayed in a special art exhibit at the U.S. Botanic Garden. It also will be on the National Arbor Day Foundation's Web site at www.arborday.org beginning April 29.

"I wanted the tree at the top of the drawing to be the life source of my painting, giving color and life to the little world below," said Christy.

Second prize in the contest went to Kevin Shih of Montville, New Jersey. Third place was awarded to Taylor Valderaz of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Prizes include a trip to Arbor Day headquarters

In addition to traveling to the Washington, D.C., event, Christy and her parents will receive an expense-paid trip to Nebraska City, Neb., home of Arbor Day, where they will stay at Lied Lodge and Conference Center and participate in the April 29 – May 1 National Awards weekend. Christy also will receive a \$1,000 savings bond and a lifetime membership in The National Arbor Day Foundation.

As the second-place winner, Kevin will receive a \$500 savings bond, and Taylor will receive a \$250 bond as the third-place winner.

Choosing the winners

Poster contests were held in 48 states and the District of Columbia this year, with each state winner advancing to the national finals. The winning designs were judged on originality and interpretation of the theme.

“This year’s contest produced many, many outstanding posters,” said John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation. “I want to congratulate Christy, Kevin, and Taylor on their display of creativity and hard work.”

Educators who would like to take part in next year’s contest can request ecosystem activities and poster contest materials by writing to: The National Arbor Day Foundation, Poster Contest Coordinator, P.O. Box 85784, Lincoln, NE 68501-5784, or by sending an e-mail to *education@arborday.org*.

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